

Exploring the river

**WILDLANDS CONSERVANCY'S
LEHIGH RIVER SOJOURN**

2005

June 24-27

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Colorful cool-down

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Lehigh River Sojourn -- Introduction

Our Wildlands Conservancy Lehigh River Sojourn 2005 crew consists of Tony Bunce, Andy Longacre, Travis Dziadual, and our leader Mr. Mauser. Tony, Andy, and Travis are students in the Northampton Area School District and Mr. John Mauser has just retired from teaching mathematics for 35 years. Northampton Area School District is located in Northampton County, adjacent to the Lehigh River. Travis, Tony, and Andy, traveled north about 40 minutes, or 25 miles to get to Mauch Chunk Lake Park.

Tony lives in Northampton, Travis in Bath, and Andy in Moore Township. We arrived at Mauch Chunk Lake Park at about 5:30 on June 23, 2005. The first thing we did was register and received the wristbands that we need to wear throughout the whole trip. Next, we set up our four tents at our campsite, which proved harder than we thought. Our first try at setting them up did not end in success; we forgot to put the pole through four hems which caused it to sag in the middle.

On our second try we were able to put up the tents successfully. We then put our snacks for the trip in Mr. Mauser's car with Travis having the most at two full grocery bags. After this we took a walk around the park with our families and then said our farewells. Prior to our planning session, Travis mentioned that in the Lehigh River you can catch a large assortment of panfish. Also, according to Travis, at Mauch Chunk Lake, which is 1 ¾ miles long, where we are camping, you can catch largemouth and smallmouth bass, pickerel, muskellunge, walleye, channel catfish, and panfish.

After our families left, we studied the maps with Mr. Mauser to see where we were going during the Sojourn. On the first day we were supposed to travel 6 miles starting at Stoddartsville. However, due to extremely low water levels, we are starting our journey about one mile down-river from Stoddartsville and then traveling about five miles farther downstream to the Francis E. Walter Dam, where our group will pull out for the day. The Stoddartsville is on the border of Monroe and Luzerne County.

Some of the tributaries in Buck Township are Bear Creek, Stony Run, Shades Creek, Lime Hollow, and in Tobyhanna Township is the Tobyhanna Creek. At about 9:00 pm, we retired for the evening. That is Mr. Mauser attempted to go to sleep while we, the students, had more energy to spend. Noise from playing cards and an idle conversation finally caused Mr. Mauser to firmly suggest everyone turn in for the evening.

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